

KEY ALLIANCES IMPROVE REGIONAL SECURITY AND PROTECT CRITICAL U.S. INTERESTS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the critical importance of our strategic allies. While some in Congress say that the United States should focus our efforts to defend our nation on building walls and restricting entry at our borders, we must continue to address the global threat of terrorism through cooperation and coordination with our allies.

While I am sure that most everyone would agree with the general concept that nations should work together to fight terrorism, I wanted to mention two countries to give my colleagues concrete examples of the critical importance of our alliances and the need to cultivate these relationships.

Turkey has a key strategic position, controlling the Bosphorus Straits and sharing a border with Syria, Iran and Iraq. A member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Turkey has been a strong ally to the United States and to all of Europe. Turkey has proven to be an important partner as US forces have left Iraq and regional tensions have increased as the situation in Syria continues to devolve and Iran pursues nuclear technologies. Turkey's importance to the US and the world will continue to increase in the future, and Turkey will be critical to maintaining peace and stability.

At a time when the US and NATO continue to maintain a large military presence in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan is a valued partner. From providing critical access to Afghanistan to helping fight the flow of illegal drugs that fund Taliban insurgents, Azerbaijan has repeatedly proven their commitment to the fight against terrorism. As Azerbaijan continues to develop democratic institutions and a civil society, their contributions to regional and global security will increase even more. At a time when all of our alliances are being tested, the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan remains strong.

The world is a safer place for all when we combine our efforts to fight those criminals who seek to use terror as a means to achieve their goals. When we work together, we become more than the sum of our parts. I urge my colleagues to support our nation's efforts along with those of our allies like Turkey and Azerbaijan to secure and protect our citizens

HONORING REGGIE COPELAND, MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mobile City Council President Reggie Copeland who was recently named "Mobilier of the Year" by the Cottage Hill

Civitan Club. I cannot think of anyone in our community who is more deserving of this high honor than Reggie.

Over 70 years ago, Reggie and his family moved to Mobile. He attended Murphy High School, Spring Hill College and the University of Alabama-Mobile Campus. During his school years, Reggie was a star athlete in football, basketball and softball. And as a young man, he developed a passion for athletics that not only taught him the value of sportsmanship, but instilled in him the very best qualities of success through teamwork.

After answering his county's call in the Korean conflict, Reggie returned stateside to embark on a long journey that would take him from the basketball courts to public office. After serving as a nationally recognized collegiate basketball official for 25 years and taking the role of executive with Alabama Power Company for an equal amount of time, Reggie found even greater challenges in leading the City of Mobile.

In 1985, he was elected to the Mobile City Council and has been re-elected six times. Currently, Reggie is in his second term as President of the City Council.

Among his long and storied history of community involvement, Reggie is credited with helping establish Mobile's Junior Miss Program, known today as the Distinguished Young Woman of America, and also helped bring the Magnolia Grove Golf Course, of the world-renowned RSA/Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, to town.

He also led the construction, and later expansion, of the Copeland-Cox Tennis Center, which bears his name, and is generally considered one of the finest public municipal tennis complexes anywhere in the country.

Councilman Copeland also played a major role in helping reestablish minor league baseball in our city with the construction of Hank Aaron Stadium, home of the Mobile BayBears.

Reggie's considerable accomplishments and recognitions include former President, Mobile Jaycees; former Vice President of Alabama Jaycees; President of the TB Health Association of Mobile County; Chairman of the Mobile County Red Cross Blood Drive; Chairman, United Way Commercial Division; President of the Southeastern Conference Basketball Officials Association; President of the Port City Basketball Officials Association of Mobile; Member of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame Board; Inducted into the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame, Mobile; Inducted into the Spring Hill College Hall of Fame; Chairman of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament, 1995-97; Chairman of the Little Sisters of the Poor Golf Tournament, 1995-2000; Inducted into the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, 1999; and member of the Board of Directors-Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reggie also assisted with the Mobile Mystics Hockey franchise and is currently working to develop a world-class soccer complex in Mobile. He also played a major role in development of the Riverfront Park and the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center.

In short, it is safe to say that there are few individuals in Mobile's rich history, which has spanned more than three centuries, who have been a more positive force for change than Mobilian of the Year Reggie Copeland.

Although Reggie recently announced his intention to retire from elected office at the end of his present term, I know him far too well to believe that he is going to slow down for even a minute. Reggie Copeland is Mobile's own version of the Energizer Bunny, and our community, our region and our entire state are better places because of his tireless efforts and unselfish example.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all Mobilians in expressing our gratitude for Reggie's enormous dedication to making Mobile second to none. We all wish him and his fine family, including his five children and 13 grandchildren, all the best. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING GENEVA A. BLACK OF PHILADELPHIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the tenacious spirit, remarkable expertise and admirable accomplishments of Geneva A. Black in providing high-quality and compassionate in-home, community and center-based services for elderly and vulnerable residents in West Philadelphia.

As Ms. Black begins a richly deserved retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc., where she has served our senior citizens for 41 years, it is time to reflect upon and thank this outstanding leader. In 1970 Ms. Black joined the Haddington Leadership Organization as its housing coordinator and two years later became Executive Director. At the time, Haddington had three employees. Now the renamed and expanded Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc. has a fulltime staff of 25 and a million-dollar-plus budget.

Along the way, under Ms. Black's leadership, the Haddington organization purchased the vacant firehouse at 5500 Haverford Avenue and converted the building to a showplace center for senior activities, serving over 30,000 West Philadelphia seniors since 1975. It is only fitting that Philadelphia City Council recently named the stretch of Haverford Avenue adjoining the firehouse as "Geneva Black Way." This is where Geneva Black's way on behalf of older Philadelphians has been making a difference for decades—and that service will be her legacy into retirement.

Having her "Way" is only one of the many tributes flowing toward this remarkable leader. The Board of Directors of Haddington Multi-Services, in recognition of her valued contributions, will honor Geneva A. Black with a celebration on Friday April 27, 2012, at First District Plaza in West Philadelphia.

I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting and congratulating a great Philadelphian, Geneva A. Black, and to wish her good health and long life upon her retirement as Executive Director of Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults Inc.

COMMEMORATING THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the Law of the Land and served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relations and remains the cornerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Through three decades marked by momentous social, economic, and political transformations, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that now shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. The foresight of the TRA's drafters in providing that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services . . . to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability," and affirming "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" as explicit objectives of the United States, has contributed in large measure to make Taiwan what it is today—a vibrant, open society governed by democratic institutions.

Though the people of Taiwan now enjoy fundamental human rights and civil liberties, they continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a "renegade province," refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent formal *de jure* independence, even codifying its right to military action via passage of the so-called "Anti-Secession Law" on March 14, 2005. The United States Congress strongly condemned the "Anti-Secession Law" in House Concurrent Resolution 98, passed on March 16, 2005.

The TRA affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. Furthermore, it stipulates that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States." The unambiguous and principled stance contained in these provisions has been instrumental to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait for more than thirty years.

I therefore invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the

TRA, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the TRA and our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

TO AMEND THE WAGNER-PEYSEYER ACT TO INCLUDE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THAT ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a bill that will allow the Northern Mariana Islands to be eligible for Employment Service Programs by amending the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

The Employment Service Programs provide funds to establish a nationwide system of public employment offices and One-Stop Career Centers across the United States. These centers have successfully connected millions of job seekers with employers throughout the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The legislation I am introducing today, in remedying the statutory absence of the Northern Mariana Islands from the definition of "State," will allow for the expansion of the federal Employment Service network to the NMI, thereby contributing to both the local and National economy by supporting the development of an experienced, motivated, and most importantly, employed American workforce.

Should the Commonwealth government choose to apply for this grant, the funds could be used to stand up One-Stop Centers in the NMI that would help those searching for work find jobs and help local employers find qualified workers. These Centers provide services that have a proven record of success in hundreds of locales throughout the United States.

Our national economy is still pulling itself out of the deepest recession since the 1930s. The economy in the NMI is in even worse condition, however, with declines in GDP every single year since 2004. This bill provides for the possible extension of a federal program that is helping address unemployment around our Nation to the one place, perhaps, that needs help the most, the Northern Marianas.

The employment services the Wagner-Peyser programs provide have proven effective in facilitating the connection between the employers' demand for employees and the labor market's abundant supply of a willing workforce. That is why I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

We have to do more in this Congress for U.S. workers. This is not a new program. This is not a fundamental amendment to the intent of the Act. This bill merely offers equal treatment to the Northern Marianas in giving them the chance to access funding to support our local businesses and workers in need.

TRIBUTE TO MARYK ELLIOTT-PARHAM

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MaryK Elliott-Parham, who is retiring after more than two decades of service to Oregon's First Congressional District. For the past 27 years, MaryK has dedicated herself to the people of Northwest Oregon, ensuring that constituents always had a direct and meaningful connection to their government. Her tireless work and positive demeanor were a consistent inspiration to staff and citizens alike.

MaryK is a lifelong Oregonian, and graduated from Portland State University in 1978. She began her Congressional career as a caseworker for Representative Les AuCoin. Her efforts on behalf of constituents soon led to her promotion to lead caseworker. She built a staff that was renowned for its commitment to service.

During the 104th Congress, MaryK became district director for Representative Elizabeth Furse, a position she held up to the 112th Congress. She led the office, working day and night through the devastating storms and floods of 1996 and 2007, providing a critical access point to government assistance for constituents who had lost their homes and livelihoods. She was also known for her outstanding organizational efforts, helping members of Congress reach out to their constituents, developing detailed schedules and tracking every town hall and every visit to schools, businesses and community gatherings to be sure every community had access to its representative.

The loyalty and hard work of the staff and alumni of the First District are a testament to MaryK's management and leadership skills. Her first priority was always getting the job done for constituents, but her kindness and care for staff, especially in difficult times, created a network of people across the state, country, and globe who consider her part of their family.

On behalf of the constituents and staff of Oregon's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate MaryK on her retirement and wish her and her family all the best.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS FREDERIC NICHOLAS MOSES

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sergeant First Class Frederic Nicholas Moses. A combat decorated veteran who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to serve his country, to protect those who could not protect themselves.

SFC Moses was born on 06 May 1985 in St. Charles, Missouri. He graduated from Duchesne High School in St. Charles, Missouri in 2003 and enlisted in the United States Army on 01 June 2004 as an 18X. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon